

Add claims 13-25 as follows:

13. A floor covering made of an elastically deformable material, comprising an upper side; an underside; first projections regularly arranged on the upper side; second projections regularly arranged on the underside for supporting the floor covering on a floor, the first and second projections having no overlapping regions in a plane of the floor covering; and third projections provided on the underside and arranged between the second projections, the third projections having a height smaller than a height of the second projections, whereby the third projections provide for an additional support of the floor covering on the floor when a load applied to the floor covering exceeds a predetermined value.

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14. A floor covering according to claim 13, wherein the first projections essentially have the shape of a spherical segment.

15. A floor covering according to claim 13, wherein at least one of the second and third projections essentially have a shape of one of flat square prism and frustum.

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16. A floor covering according to claim 13, wherein at least one of the second and third projections essentially have a shape of one of spherical segment, flat truncated cone, and flat cylinder.
 17. A floor covering according to claim 15, wherein the second projections have the shape of the one of square prism and frustum with rounded edges and transitional areas extending to the plane of the floor covering, and the third projections have the shape of a spherical segment.
 18. A floor covering according to claim 13, wherein dimensions of the second projections correspond to at least a distance therebetween.
 19. A floor covering according to claim 13, wherein dimensions of the third projections are essentially less than a distance between.
 20. A floor covering according to claim 19, wherein the dimensions of third projections is less than $\frac{3}{4}$ of the distance therebetween.
 21. A floor covering according to claim 13, wherein grid sizes of arrangements of the first and second projections essentially correspond, and a grid size of the third projections corresponds to the grid size of the arrangements of the first and second projections or a multiple thereof.

22. A floor covering according to claim 13, wherein the first projections are formed by superimposition of a larger spherical segment and a smaller spherical segment mounted on the larger segment.
23. A floor covering according to claim 13, wherein a height of the first projections is less than $1/3$ of their largest measurement in the covering plane and a height of at least one of a second and third projections is in a range of between $1/5$ and $1/2$ of its size measurement in the covering plane.
- A² 24. A floor covering according to claim 13, further comprising at least one of perforations provided between the first and second projections and recesses formed in the underside.
25. A floor covering according to claim 11, wherein at least one of the perforations and the recesses have one of a circular cross-section and a cross-section of a segment.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the subject application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested.